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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME VI. REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 30. Regional cooperation for development in Africa

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1/(1987)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. At the first part of its thirty-second session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered proposed revisions to programme 30, contained in documents A/47/6 (Prog. 30) of 27 April 1992 and A/47/6 (Prog. 30)/Corr.1 of 11 May 1992, and requested the Secretary-General to propose further revisions to the programme and to make relevant proposals at its resumed session in the light of the discussions in the Committee and taking into account the outcome of the Conference of Ministers of ECA.

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* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

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4. The revisions proposed below to programme 30 are submitted pursuant to this recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and replace the revisions to this programme contained in document A/47/6 (Prog. 30) and Corr.1 as well as the narrative of programme 30 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1.

5. Because of the new subprogramme structure proposed, necessitating extensive revision, the complete revised text is presented in its entirety. In order to facilitate its review, the table below provides the correspondence between the proposed nine new subprogrammes and the existing 21 subprogrammes of programme 30 contained in document A/45/6/Rev.1.

Proposed new subprogrammes	Corresponding subprogrammes in A/45/6/Rev.1
1. Development issues and policies	1. Development issues and policies (in part)
	5. Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries
	13. Monetary and financial policies and strategies
	14. Management of Africa's external debt (in part)
2. Trade, regional economic cooperation and integration	2. Economic cooperation and integration
	12. Trade development and cooperation
	20. Tourism
3. Poverty alleviation through sustainable development	3. Agricultural and rural development
	4. Marine affairs (living resources component)
	9. Environment and development
	10. Human settlements
	18. Population
4. Development administration and management	6. Public administration and fiscal affairs

Proposed new subprogrammes	Corresponding subprogrammes in A/45/6/Rev.1
5. Human resource development and social transformation	1. Development issues and policies (in part)
	7. Social development
6. Statistical and information systems development	1. Development issues and policies (in part)
	21. Statistical development
7. Natural resources and energy development	4. Marine affairs (non-living resources component)
	15. Natural resources
	16. Energy, including new and renewable sources of energy
8. Infrastructural and structural transformation	11. Industrial development
	17. Science and technology for development
	19. Transport and communications
9. Women in development	8. Advancement of women

Programme 30. Regional cooperation for development in Africa

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PROGRAMME 30. REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

A. Programme

1. General orientation

30.1 The legislative authority of the programme derives from Chapters IX and X of the Charter of the United Nations and from Economic and Social Council resolution 671 (XXV) of 25 April 1958, whereby the Council established ECA and assigned it the following responsibilities: facilitating concerted action for the economic development of Africa, including its social aspects, and maintaining and strengthening economic cooperation in the region and the cooperation of the African countries with other countries of the world. The programme's mandate is further elaborated in a number of General Assembly and Council resolutions, as well as in the resolutions of the Commission. Among the most recent and pertinent resolutions are: General Assembly resolutions S-13/2, 44/24, 44/169, 45/178, 45/199 and 46/151; Council resolutions 1988/66 and 1989/116; Commission resolutions 673 (XXIV), 676 (XXIV), 698 (XXV), 718 (XXVI), 726 (XXVII), 727 (XXVII) and 728 (XXVII), and Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular, the regional input into the Agenda as embodied in the African Common Position on the Environment and Development.

30.2 The programme is aimed at:

(a) Intensifying and diversifying inter-African economic cooperation and strengthening coordination of economic cooperation policies among African countries at subregional, regional and international levels;

(b) Providing potential opportunities for the acceleration of the process of sustainable economic development in each of the countries of the region with specific emphasis on the economic development of the least developed, land-locked and island countries in Africa, through the implementation of appropriate policies for sustainable development;

(c) Addressing the growing importance of the social dimensions of economic development of the African countries and of the interrelationship between economic and social factors in the development process especially the need to integrate population factors in development planning and policy-making.

30.3 The African region has continued to experience critical social and economic problems throughout the decade of the 1980s. Fragile and poorly integrated structures have continued to constrain efforts at broadening the production base, expanding and managing economic and social infrastructures and bringing about adjustment with transformation. The collapse in the prices of commodities, declining export earnings for Africa's primary commodities and the slow down in financial resource inflows, as well as the lack of access to international investments and markets have all critically continued to influence the prospects for growth and transformation in the region. The external debt burden has in particular, continued to constitute one of the most critical bottlenecks to the region's development. Consequently, there is a considerable sense of urgency to respond more imaginatively and cogently to the need to formulate new strategies for economic and social development with

a view to expanding productive employment, reducing mass poverty and improving the quality of life generally.

30.4 Africa has been caught up in the ongoing fundamental changes in political, economic and social relations that now characterize the world. Most African countries have, as a result, now embarked on the global move towards democratization and political pluralism and have consequently decided to enhance popular participation by, among other things, giving access to decision-making processes for the great majority of the people so as to increase transparency. Many have also initiated economic reform programmes, reflecting the necessity for structural transformation. Indeed, with the signing in July 1991 of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, the countries of the region have recognized and accepted the premise that regional cooperation and integration are imperative tools for the accelerated attainment of individual and collective self-reliance, particularly in the context of the rapidly emerging trend towards regional economic and trading blocs.

30.5 While the changes are relevant for the promotion of democracy, political pluralism and good governance and have consequently raised great hope for the democratization of the international system, they have at the same time created considerable uncertainties for Africa's development prospects and are posing new challenges for the countries of the region. Significantly, African countries must now seek external financial resources in an increasingly different environment. Indeed, the granting of economic assistance will be based less on political and ideological affinities, and more on sound economic management, political pluralism and good governance. Moreover, Africa's needs for economic assistance will increasingly compete with those of the transitional economies of other developing regions and Central and Eastern Europe.

30.6 The emergence of regional economic and trading blocs and the potential threat of growing protectionism and discriminatory terms of trade underline the urgency with which the region must forge ahead with measures for the accelerated ratification and implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. At the same time the settlement of some long-standing inter-State and inter-ethnic conflicts and the prospective resolution of others, as well as the possibilities for the reintegration of South Africa into the mainstream of African affairs, present tremendous opportunities for redirecting resources from non-productive expenditures and excessive military spending to socio-economic reconstruction and transformation. The process towards demilitarization of the continent enhances Africa's development process and provides greater opportunities for meeting increased demands and aspirations for basic human needs. Of special importance, in formulating appropriate strategies to face these challenges as a result of the changes taking place in the world is the need for Africa to work simultaneously towards the enhancement of the role of both African non-governmental organizations and the private sector in development.

30.7 Additionally, African countries should strengthen and, where they do not exist, create appropriate mechanisms for the management of the global changes with a view to promoting the goals of socio-economic development and transformation. For ECA the changes call for newer and more imaginative ways

of serving member States and enhancing the role of the Commission in regional and international cooperation.

30.8 The Commission recommended, among other things, a more desirable balance between the research and operational activities of the Commission; fewer and better prepared action-oriented conferences: improved preparation for, and more careful negotiation of what Africa needs at the global level; enhancing the Commission's competitive advantage in providing intellectual leadership and advocacy on Africa's socio-economic development; enhancing cooperation with Africa's other major continental organizations, subregional intergovernmental organizations, other United Nations organizations and agencies, including the Bretton Woods institutions and non-governmental and professional organizations.

2. Overall strategy

30.9 The programme will be implemented by the secretariat of ECA. The Commission will continue to be a focal point in developing strategies for enhancing regional and interregional cooperation in the interest of African countries. During the period 1992-1997 of the medium-term plan, the secretariat will undertake economic and social research and analyses of specific issues, in accordance with priorities established by the Commission, provide substantive and conference-servicing of the Commission, as and when required, and organize seminars and other events in member countries and for groups of countries with a view to assisting them to cope with specific problems affecting their individual countries. The secretariat of ECA will disseminate the conclusions and recommendations of those meetings to all interested parties; it will also provide technical assistance and advisory services to member States, promote and support the development of appropriate institutions and identify and execute technical cooperation activities for the direct benefit of member States. In that context, particular attention will be given to the potentials and possibilities of multisectoral integration projects at the subregional level, in such critical sectors as food and agriculture, industry, energy, transport and communications, as well as in promoting the effective use of the Commission-sponsored institutions. The complex nature of Africa's problems with their attendant multidimensional implications invariably requires imaginative and cogent responses incorporating all the technical, socio-economic and managerial aspects to solutions. To this effect, the Commission will adopt a significantly enhanced multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach in both its substantive and operational activities.

30.10 Of special significance for the ECA was the definition of a selected number of areas of focus to galvanize the Commission's future activities and ensure that the desired synergy is achieved between clusters of activities in related areas of priority. The areas of focus so defined include: (a) strengthening ECA's advocacy role on socio-economic questions; (b) promoting regional cooperation and integration; (c) enhancing the efficiency of the public sector; promoting private initiative and entrepreneurship; (d) development, dissemination and utilization of science and technology; (e) ensuring a desirable balance between food supply, population, human settlements and environment; (e) fostering human-centred

development; (f) promoting structural transformation and diversification of African economies; and (g) promoting the role of women in development.

30.11 In the course of the implementation of the programme, the Commission will strengthen joint programming and formal working links with relevant entities and agencies of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, professional and other interest groups active in Africa's development, and the private sector. Agency coordination and participation will in particular be sought in the implementation of priority programmes, including especially the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, the African Common Position on the Environment and Development, the United Nations New Agenda for African Economic Development in the 1990s, the United Nations Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, the United Nations Second Industrial Development Decade in Africa, the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa and the Arusha Strategies for the Advancement of Women. Much more use will in this regard be made of system-wide inter-agency task forces for coordinating programme monitoring and implementation. Particular attention will be paid to cooperation with the funding organizations of the United Nations in implementing African intergovernmental, regional, intercountry economic and technical cooperation programmes. Furthermore, the Commission will actively cooperate with other regional commissions on specific issues of mutual concern particularly in enhancing the process of interregional and international cooperation.

30.12 All these links, together with several others established or to be developed with multilateral and bilateral programmes and institutions, will be progressively deepened and extended to enhance integrated joint programming for the execution of the programme. The re-establishment of a sound and solid extrabudgetary financial basis for ECA will be particularly crucial.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

30.13 The programme will consist of the following subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1. Development issues and policies

Subprogramme 2. Trade, regional economic cooperation and integration

Subprogramme 3. Poverty alleviation through sustainable development

Subprogramme 4. Development administration and management

Subprogramme 5. Human resources development and social transformation

Subprogramme 6. Statistical and information systems development

Subprogramme 7. Natural resources and energy development

Subprogramme 8. Infrastructural and structural transformation

Subprogramme 9. Women in development

30.14 Subprogrammes 2, 3 and 5 are designated high priority.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES

(a) Objectives

30.15 The subprogramme derives its legislative authority from various resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and ECA. The most recent and pertinent of these resolutions include: Assembly resolutions S-11/4, S-13/2, 39/174, 41/174, 42/174, 42/177, 42/199, 43/194, 43/198, 44/78, 44/169, 44/205, 44/220, 45/206, 46/148, 46/156 and 46/212; Council resolutions 1988/7 and 1989/89; and Commission resolutions 619 (XXII), 664 (XXIII), 667 (XXIV), 673 (XXIV), 676 (XXIV), 698 (XXV), 708 (XXV) and 732 (XXVII).

30.16 Africa's development strategy, as laid down in the Monrovia Declaration and the Lagos Plan of Action, aims largely at a profound change in Africa's economic structure, based on the two pillars of self-reliance and self-sustainment and economic integration. However, events since the beginning of the 1980s have been such that the real outcome has been far from what was envisaged in the Lagos Plan of Action. The 1980s turned out to be a lost decade for Africa, with the continent moving from one crisis to another, output per head declining by some 1.2 per cent a year on average, and food supply becoming more precarious, as revealed by the catastrophic effects of the great drought of 1984/85. As a proportion of total output, manufacturing industry showed little or no progress, remaining at less than 12 per cent. With the exception of a handful of countries, such as Mauritius, Tunisia and Morocco, industrialization failed generally with deindustrialization actually setting in in some countries. The social conditions in Africa deteriorated even faster during the decade.

30.17 The African countries lost ground too on their external sector. Africa's share of world trade fell to less than 2 per cent while African exporters lost market shares for traditional exports such as coffee, cocoa, timber, tropical fruits and so on. Debt accumulation increased considerably during the 1980s, particularly in the oil-rich countries, to the point that they had become mostly unserviceable and, hence, the major impediment to recovery and growth. During the 1980s, the sharp fluctuations in oil prices, the steep climb in interest rates, the instability of major currencies such as the dollar, the fluctuations in world demand for primary commodities, all had an adverse effect on the African economies.

30.18 The African countries have not, as a whole, been able to master and fully utilize modern technology and the know-how that is generally the key to modern economic development; no fundamental change has yet taken place in agricultural technology and farming practices in Africa. Thus, in spite of the process of policy reforms and the adjustment programmes that have proceeded in Africa, and notwithstanding the adoption of the medium-term programmes such as Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, economic recovery in Africa has remained rather slow while the prospects for long-term development and transformation are as dim as ever. One of the lessons from the poor economic performance in Africa in the 1980s and the economic growth in some Asian countries such as Japan and South

Korea is that while the role of government in economic development has to change from that of central control to that of stimulating and supporting the private sector, purposive governance and governmental actions remain crucial to the development process as a whole.

30.19 The challenges of long-term economic growth, development and sustainability remain as great and compelling as ever to the region. An assessment of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990, revealed that the performance of the African economies was not satisfactory. However, some positive initiatives were taken within the region that ushered in new prospects for Africa's development. The signing of the treaty for an African Economic Community has established hope for economic integration and cooperation. This hope must be translated into reality by the financing of integration projects by African countries. The adoption by Africa of the Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation demonstrated that a new political will and commitment was developed, one in which democracy and good governance are being conceptualized as necessary criteria for development and transformation. The General Assembly launched the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, offering another opportunity for renewing the commitment of the international community to support Africa's own efforts to achieve self-sustaining socio-economic growth and development.

30.20 In response to the peculiar situation of the least developed countries and in meeting their special needs, the Paris Declaration and the New Programme of Action for the 1990s were adopted with a view to correct the discouraging results of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the least developed countries in the 1980s. The Programme of Action, which is presently being implemented, is designed to promote effective national development policies, a favourable international economic climate and a strengthened partnership based on mutual commitments. The declaration defined five priority areas in the Programme of Actions: namely, (a) the conduct of a macroeconomic policy, taking into account market signals and aimed at accelerating long-term growth and development, and showing concern for the situation of the most vulnerable groups of the population; (b) development of human resources for a bottom-up participatory development process in an effective policy environment that takes into account the health, education, training and employment needs of the least developed countries; (c) reversal of the trend towards environmental degradation and the reinforcing of action to deal with natural and man-made disasters; (d) promotion of an integrated policy of rural development to enhance food production and enlarge rural incomes; and (e) development of a diversified productive sector based on increased access to the international market and on international actions in the field of commodities.

30.21 The implications of the debt problem for the region cannot be overemphasized. There has been a depressive impact on monetary and financial programmes and policies, and on the social and economic development of the African countries. Credit facilities have been tightened as a consequence of the decline in resources flows into the region. Official development assistance has stagnated in real terms. As a result, many African countries have been forced into default in meeting their debt-service obligations.

30.22 In recent years, the African monetary and financial situation had deteriorated to a point where existing policies, structures and institutions were unable to support reasonable or sustained rates of growth and development. Although many financial and monetary institutions had been created and are operational, member States are, in practice, not relying on, or using them to provide technical support and advisory services in that area. The monetary and financial situation is characterized by a large development financing gap, increased accumulated arrears in debt servicing and the overall debt stock, and a general inability to cope with an increasingly less favourable international monetary and financial environment.

30.23 The subprogramme is directed towards finding positive and lasting solutions that will allow countries to achieve the necessary recovery and lead to sustained growth and development. In the light of this orientation, the objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To promote a continuous understanding of the process of economic and social development and growth in Africa, and encouragement of a multisectoral approach to development analysis and planning in the context of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act; the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation, aimed at the socio-economic recovery and development of the region; and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, as well as other regionally negotiated and agreed policy and strategic frameworks;

(b) To monitor the economic development of the least developed, land-locked and island countries in Africa and to promote appropriate policies for their transformation toward self-sustained development;

(c) To assist least developed countries within the framework of the implementation of regionally and internationally agreed strategies and of the programme of action adopted to address their special and peculiar problems;

(d) To assist member States in designing and implementing more effective debt-management strategies, and to strengthen their policy framework and instruments for external debt management; in decreasing their stocks of debt and arrears; in increasing proper identification of more appropriate sources of external debt and other financing, including foreign direct investment; and in improving the selection and implementation of those investment and development projects which would increase the potential for debt reduction and debt servicing;

(e) To develop and strengthen the institutional machinery at the national, subregional and regional levels for debt analysis, monitoring and evaluation, to increase Africa's managerial and technical capacity to service its debt; and to increase the negotiating skills of African managers through appropriate training programmes;

(f) To develop sound monetary and financial policies and strategies;

(g) To promote orderly and effective monetary and financial cooperation at the subregional and regional levels, as a means of enhancing better management of resources;

(h) To foster increased self-reliance in financing development through more intensive programmes for domestic savings and resource mobilization.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.24 During the period 1992-1997, the secretariat of ECA will continue research and studies on specific factors influencing the African economic and social situation, including aspects of coordination of the development process especially as they relate to the economies of least developed countries. The secretariat will in particular seek to strengthen its advocacy role on socio-economic questions and provide forward looking perspectives with a view to assist in the formulation of Africa's common positions on current or emerging socio-economic issues. The secretariat will continue to publish the annual survey of economic and social conditions in Africa as well as the annual economic report on Africa. It will also continue to train African specialists in methods of planning and implementation techniques. The enhancement of physical structures planning and capabilities will be continued in close cooperation with the African Institute for Economic Development Planning. Technical advisory services will also be provided, upon request, to the members of the Commission in formulating plans and programmes on the basis of appropriate methodologies. Technical cooperation projects will be identified and submitted to donors for funding. The least developed, land-locked and island developing countries will be given special attention in intercountry technical cooperation projects.

30.25 The institutional arrangements for assistance in the formulation of strategies and approaches, monitoring, follow-up and review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/206 of 21 December 1990 will also be continued.

30.26 Specifically, efforts will be directed at:

(a) Assessing international efforts in the promotion of the necessary structural changes required to overcome the extreme economic difficulties of the least developed, land-locked and island countries with a view to enabling them to achieve adequate internationally acceptable minimum standards of living. Special attention will be paid to the need to improve aid modalities, adjust and reorient the volume and the use of development aid to development needs of the individual African countries as well as advising on the relevant and appropriate changes in modality and the necessary reorientation of development aid programmes;

(b) Undertaking studies that will assist least developed, land-locked and island developing countries in Africa to formulate plans and programmes on the basis of appropriate planning methodologies with a view to transforming their economies;

(c) Assisting least developed, land-locked and island developing countries in Africa to secure emergency support in case of natural disasters;

(d) Undertaking studies on efficient macroeconomic management, developing structural adjustment and stabilizing programmes of the economies

of those countries, including effective mobilization and efficient utilization of domestic and human resources.

30.27 The secretariat will undertake research and analysis of the structure and magnitude of the debt problem in Africa, identify the root causes and investigate the possibilities of linking debt-management programmes at all levels with the overall financial and monetary objectives of member States. In addition, assistance will be provided through workshops, meetings, advisory missions and studies, with the following activities receiving the highest priority:

(a) Assessment of the reduction of Africa's debt stock and debt servicing and its impact on developments in international economic relations;

(b) Elaboration of more intensive programmes and policies for both external and internal debt, and for resource management;

(c) Assessment of the appropriateness or adequacy of the initiatives taken to solve the African debt problem, as they relate to defining a new approach that places debt in the context of growth;

(d) Collaboration with other institutions and organizations concerned with Africa's debt problem, with a view to mounting joint programmes that would be more responsive to the needs of African countries in this field;

(e) Assessment of the impact of external development on the African economies, including the new monetary arrangements within the European Monetary System.

30.28 The ECA secretariat will also focus on measures to be elaborated for halting or reversing the downward trends in resource inflows, especially on concessional terms. New practical and more imaginative solutions will be sought to deal with the problems of inadequacy of financing, including low domestic savings. Through workshops, studies and analyses of developments and trends in that sector of the African economy, measures will be devised for:

(a) Strengthening of existing institutions for regional monetary and financial cooperation and the establishment and operationalization of an African monetary fund;

(b) Reversing the flight of capital and attracting direct foreign investments, especially in subregional and regional projects and programmes.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. TRADE, REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

(a) Objectives

30.29 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions S-13/2, 40/172, 42/175, 43/198, 44/205, 44/218, 44/222, 44/223 and 46/145; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/7, 1988/68, 1989/118, 1990/76, 1991/82 and 1991/303; and Commission resolutions 611 (XXII), 619 (XXII), 640 (XXII), 659 (XXIV), 700 (XXV) and 702 (XXV).

30.30 Economic cooperation and integration has featured highly on the development agenda of Africa. The desire to realize economic cooperation and integration goals have led to the creation of several subregional economic groupings and intergovernmental organizations, including the four major subregional economic communities, namely; the Economic Community of West African States, the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States, the Economic Community of Central African States and the Magreb Arab Union.

30.31 Preoccupation with economic survival, particularly in the light of drought, desertification, mounting external debt, deteriorating terms of trade and rapidly declining resource flows have slowed down the desired progress towards regional cooperation and integration. Additionally efforts to make these integration arrangements more effective have often been constrained by, among other things, institutional and infrastructural problems, which will need to be addressed. For example, coordination of development plans on a multinational, subregional and regional basis needs to be greatly improved. Furthermore countries also need to strengthen their ability to incorporate cooperation and integration arrangements in their national plans and policies.

30.32 The problems to be addressed include among others: the reorientation of Africa's production towards the domestic demand and the reversal of the outward-looking trend, the effectiveness of subregional monetary and financial institutions, particularly in respect of payments arrangements, clearing-houses, and banking institutions that presently are too weak and ineffective to provide the support required in linking national monetary and financial systems to those at subregional or regional levels. A working African monetary and financial system and institution are vital to the survival of an African economic community.

30.33 African countries continue to experience a low level of domestic trade, which is characterized by serious shortages of basic goods as a result of lopsided distribution and marketing policies. Ironically food shortages exist side-by-side with surpluses within the same economy. Trade services, as well as trade financing and credit to the rural areas are still accorded low priority. The role of intra-African trade continues to decline in the development process without sufficient positive results. The rapidly declining intra-African trade is further aggravated by continued prohibitive tariff and non-tariff barrier policies even where treaties for cooperation explicitly call for trade liberalization within specific preferential trade areas. The lack of up-to-date and reliable trade statistics and information, as well as inadequate marketing strategies and export techniques, also constitute a priority problem to be addressed.

30.34 The tourism industry in Africa is confronted with operational and management problems, aggravated by inadequate tourism infrastructures and services in some countries, and by a lack of sufficient qualified personnel and training institutions in the region. The exogenous nature of African tourism should also be corrected by developing intra-African tourism and building up managerial expertise. The management of the tourist product should be carried out by qualified personnel from the region, so as to curb the massive outflow of the resources needed for overall development and to have a better control over the development of tourism in Africa.

30.35 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To strengthen the capacity of African intergovernmental organizations as effective instruments of self-sustaining and self-reliant development; to assist African countries and their intergovernmental organizations in the identification and implementation of integration projects; to promote South-South cooperation to enhance economic cooperation and integration in Africa; to advance proposals for the harmonization and rationalization of the integration activities of the various intergovernmental organizations; and to review and appraise periodically the integration activities planned and undertaken by intergovernmental organizations;

(b) To strengthen sectoral integration at subregional and regional levels in the fields of transport and communications, energy, industry, agriculture, trade, finance and money, human resources, science and technology;

(c) To enhance the coordination and harmonization of national policies in order to promote common policies, particularly in the fields of agriculture, industry, transport and communications, energy, natural resources, trade, money and finance, human resources, science and technology;

(d) To strengthen existing institutional machinery for cooperation and consultation with a view to increasing the exchange of information on development financing and investment;

(e) To enhance Africa's trade sector through the adoption of appropriate measures, policies and strategies for the expansion of domestic, regional and external trade;

(f) To strengthen existing institutions for subregional trade cooperation by making them more operational and responsive to Africa's trade requirements and help harmonize their negotiating positions in all international conferences on trade;

(g) To promote the establishment of subregional and regional payment arrangements, clearing-houses and banking institutions, where appropriate, but in particular, work towards the establishment of the African monetary fund and the African payments union;

(h) To promote the cooperation and harmonization of rational integration of tourism resources and potential to programmes related to the development of trade and tourism;

(i) To strengthen regional cooperation in tourism, through the establishment of inter-State circuits and machineries, joint promotion of tourism and a multinational vocational training system;

(j) To assist African countries in acquiring an increased level of necessary expertise in the field of tourism.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.36 The secretariat, through particularly the ECA multinational programming and operational centres in each subregion, will continue to work closely with

and assist the African subregional economic communities in implementing their work programmes in priority sectors of concern to the subprogramme.

30.37 The secretariat will also significantly assist in the establishment and progressive launching of the activities of the African economic community, with a view to creating an African single market through rationalization and harmonization of the activities of the main economic communities in the western, central, northern, eastern and southern subregions, and through the promotion of continental integration projects.

30.38 While efforts will continue to be deployed to strengthen existing subregional organizations in implementing well-integrated sectoral projects, steps will be taken to coordinate and rationalize their activities so as to create a single subregional market in each subregion as a necessary first step towards an African common market. In collaboration with OAU and the African Development Bank, the Commission will assist economic integration entities in adopting viable programmes during the plan period. Assistance will be provided for, firstly, achieving self-sustaining and self-reliant development through detailed master plans for the transport and communications, energy, water and industry sectors, as well as for human resources development. Secondly, attempts will be made to identify concrete multinational projects within these sectoral master plans. Thirdly, preparation of feasibility studies for their implementation will be carried out. During the period, intra-regional projects linking the main subregions of Africa will also be identified and implemented. In this regard, special attention will be given to continental road and railway networks, to continental electric grids for the exploitation of African natural resources and to projects of regional character, especially in the field of capital goods industries. A strong TCDC initiative at the subregional and regional levels will also be promoted.

30.39 The institution-building process for trade promotion and cooperation is about to be completed and new efforts will be directed towards the strengthening of operational capabilities of those institutions.

30.40 Priority will be given to supporting the development of import-substitution policies, market research, demand and supply analysis and trade facilitation at the country, regional and interregional levels. The secretariat will disseminate the findings of studies and analyses, in particular through seminars, workshops and symposia. The secretariat will assist member States in developing aggressive trade promotion strategies and mechanisms to improve the export performance of the African countries and improve the foreign exchange capabilities, as well as strengthening existing trade institutions at the national and subregional level through, inter alia, specific-targeted training and skills upgrading programmes in the field of trade.

30.41 Additionally, the secretariat will address issues related to: intra-African trade; commodities; private and public sector activities; informal and formal trade sectors; support to African negotiating strategies; and ECDC. The secretariat will also continue to promote effective implementation of the Strategies on Revitalization, Recovery and Growth of Africa's Trade in the 1990s and Beyond, adopted by the Conference of Ministers of Trade in December 1990.

30.42 In the areas of tourism, the secretariat will continue to assist member States through advisory services, organization of workshops and seminars, continuous survey and assessment of tourism potential, identification of training needs and collection and dissemination of tourism information. It will also continue to promote regional and subregional programmes for the harmonization and standardization of hotel management methods, programmes for training in planning and analysis, the establishment of efficient vocational training systems, as well as mechanisms for consultation among tourism professionals in Africa. It will also provide assistance to member States in the establishment of inter-State circuits and mechanisms for their effective use.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

30.43 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from various General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and ECA resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions S-13/2, 37/66, 42/186, 42/187, 42/188, 42/189, 42/191, 43/53, 43/181, 43/190, 43/191, 44/78, 44/169, 44/226 to 44/228, 45/218, 46/161 and 46/163; Council resolutions 1987/90, 1989/80, 1989/89 to 1989/93, 1989/102 and 1991/92; and Commission resolutions 478 (XVIII), 506 (XIX), 540 (XX), 548 (XX), 565 (XXI), 578 (XXI), 598 (XXII), 621 (XXII), 635 (XXIII), 641 (XXIII), 645 (XXIII), 651 (XXIII) and 712 (XXVI).

30.44 The improvement of the living standards of all people, especially rural and agrarian people and the urban poor, continues to be a fundamental goal of most African countries. The widespread evidence of poverty in Africa is a consequence of the deterioration in socio-economic conditions. Among the internal factors contributing to this are: (a) the persistent differentials in incomes between rural and urban areas as well as the neglect of the rural areas; (b) frequent droughts and other environmental related problems; and (c) demographic issues and unstable political structures. Poverty cannot be alleviated unless the pace of economic growth can be ameliorated and sustained over time; and unless the benefits of growth, including especially access to the means of production, are made to accrue to the masses of the people and the people at large are made the generators of development through a genuine process of popular democratic participation. A programme on poverty alleviation therefore must cut across all subprogrammes of the Commission. It is however evident that the linkages and relationships between food and agriculture, population, the environment and human settlements are at the heart of the development crisis in Africa.

30.45 The exploitation of the inherent synergy in these relationships and in particular the maintenance of the right balance in this nexus, which are central to strategies for the alleviation of poverty and consequently human survival, are accordingly the focus of this subprogramme. Ensuring human survival means creating the enabling environment for improving the access of the population to the food they need, advice for responsible parenthood, and other essential services such as housing, health and goods for a productive life based on increased measures of self-reliance and combined with sustainable growth and development of the economy. It goes without saying that these are essential elements in addressing the basic question of poverty

alleviation. Conversely, efforts towards reducing poverty will have a positive impact on these survival issues.

30.46 Agricultural development activities should address the problems of formulating and implementing appropriate and coherent agricultural and rural development policies, plans and programmes with emphasis on their technical, institutional and infrastructural aspects. The production base in Africa is characterized by weak intersectoral linkages. A major problem facing many countries in the region is the non-availability of, or inability to apply, appropriate policies that would ensure a steady increase in agricultural productivity through the application of appropriate technology. The situation is aggravated by the ineffective operation of most of the agricultural institutions and infrastructures. The main issues to be addressed in that regard include coordination of agricultural and forestry research, including technology transfer particularly to smallholders; the formulation and application of appropriate policy instruments with regard to the use of agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers, pesticides, improved seeds, farm tools, machinery and implements and animal inputs; adoption of measures for the rational utilization and conservation of farm land, water and edible resources of fauna and flora; promotion of policies and measures for proper plant and animal protection and identification and recommendation of policies for developing market, store, transport and finance infrastructures in order to encourage agricultural production and marketing.

30.47 Although the African seas are known to be rich in both living and non-living resources, most of the African States lack adequate capabilities for effective development and utilization of those resources. The principal problem encountered is the lack of appropriate policies and of related capability to enhance productivity and to adopt new technologies in the exploitation of sea resources.

30.48 In spite of their nutritional importance and low prices, fishery resources are inadequately exploited. That situation is accompanied by a lack of parallel development in related sectors, notably in the areas of research, training and stock assessment, as well as by the absence of industries for the exploitation of living resources at the national or regional levels, and inadequate joint ventures or agreements with foreign companies and Governments in the exploitation of both living and non-living resources.

30.49 In the field of rural development and transformation, an integrated approach is required to improve the efficiency of existing institutions and to encourage the establishment of new ones when necessary to cope with the development and transformation problems of agricultural and rural sectors. In that context, further efforts are necessary for encouraging and strengthening both the planning, monitoring and evaluation of rural development projects and programmes within the overall framework of development of the agricultural sector and addressing issues of inadequate socio-economic infrastructures in rural areas and social equity among the rural population, as well as the lack of self-reliance and existing high dependence of rural communities on external assistance and low local participation in the decision-making process in rural areas.

30.50 Before the adoption of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population in 1984, only few African countries designed policies to reduce

high population growth rates, with no tangible results. Renewed efforts to make the policies more effective are noticeable. In most countries, population growth rates are very high and act to compound the major constraints to improving socio-economic conditions of the people. It was in this context that the objectives of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action include the achievement of population growth rates that are compatible with the desired economic growth and social development goals. Since 1984, many African countries have indicated their intention to reduce population growth rates and to integrate population variables in development plans. An increasing number of countries are adopting policies to moderate population growth rates that will go a long way to contribute to the objectives of sustainable development and alleviation of poverty. The Programme of Action correctly emphasized that population should be a central component in formulation and implementing policies and programmes for accelerated socio-economic development. Alongside the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action, the United Nations New Agenda has laid the foundation for alleviating the effects of the economic crisis on the people of the region. Success of population policies and their integration into development planning requires government commitment and support and continued efforts on awareness of population-related problems at various levels: leaders, politicians, decision makers, planners and the population at the grass roots.

30.51 Africa's environmental concerns are anchored in the important linkages between poverty alleviation through sustainable development and the management of natural resources as well as pollution control. Furthermore, the intimate relationship between the structure and functioning of African economies and the role of structural adjustment programmes in promoting environmental degradation should be recognized. So also is the need to adopt strategies that will transform the structure of the economies so as to promote their environmentally sound exploitation. Utilization of resources for sustainable development is of strategic concern. This, indeed, underscores the important role of environmental management in Africa's economic performance.

30.52 Despite noteworthy initiatives on the part of member States to promote environmental management in the region, and to control pollution, it is unfortunate to note that environmental degradation has continued to plague tne continent in crisis proportions. The recent severe droughts in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and southern Africa have increased the pressure on respective ecosystems and have accelerated the rate of desertification. This has highlighted the need to promote actions, both at the national and multinational levels, for environmental conservation so as to mitigate, individually and collectively, the impacts of these calamities.

30.53 The preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development gave member States an added opportunity to review earlier strategies for managing the environment and to come out with priority areas of action that are supportive of national, regional and global action towards sustainable development. In this respect, the formulation of the African Environment and Development Agenda and the adoption of the African Common Position are, indeed, in the right direction towards integrating environmental factors in the development process. The Agenda emphasizes that environmental management should not be addressed as a sectoral issue. It should be handled as an integral part of the development process, which, in itself, demands a multifaceted approach, requiring that it must be considered, as a matter of

policy, part and parcel of national, regional and global action for poverty eradication and sustainable development. Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development also addresses other cross-sectoral issues that will be taken into account during the period under review.

30.54 To this end, it is imperative, therefore, to increase the capacity, both within the Commission and in member States, for the integration of environmental dimensions into programme development and implementation. There is, indeed, the need to enhance the capabilities and capacity in member States for concerted action to deal with major environmental issues in the social and economic development process of the region. The promotion of appropriate strategies for addressing environmental degradation in all sectors of development activity, including poverty eradication, capacity-building, transfer of environmentally friendly technologies, as well as addressing the inequalities in international economic relations that encourage environmental problems, should be considered as a priority concern to the region.

30.55 Integrated human settlements planning has received very little attention. The complementarity between rural and urban sectors has not been emphasized. The urban economy is almost entirely dependent on imported manufactured goods and services, as well as skills and factor inputs for locally produced consumer goods. The reliance on foreign construction firms and expertise has made rural transformation and urban renewal prohibitive.

30.56 The dearth of rural infrastructure and services and the predominance of the capital city, compounded by poor farming practices and the spread of marginal land and desertification, have triggered mass migration from the rural hinterland. In turn, the ever-decreasing carrying capacity of the rural sector has given rise to low density and a scattered settlement pattern. Concomitantly, the towns and major cities have faced overcrowding and poor living conditions. Unemployment and underemployment and other urban problems have overly stretched the meagre resources of municipal authorities. The conjunction of urban ills and rural deprivation have often frustrated development efforts in the region.

30.57 In the light of the above, the development of human settlement management capacity within a decentralized administrative and financial framework, along with the need for trained personnel for the design and implementation of infrastructure and services, constitute a major challenge to the countries of the region.

30.58 The objectives of the subprogramme are to increase the awareness of the need to design appropriate policies in the areas of food production and supply, rural development and transformation, population, human settlements and environmental management agriculture development and rural transformation. This would include, among other things, the following:

(a) Assist the ECA member States in formulating and implementing appropriate policies and strategies, with a view to attaining food security through food self-sufficiency and enhancing national and regional capabilities and the capacity for self-sustaining expansion in the production systems of African agriculture;

(b) Promote the development of African capabilities for exploration, exploitation and management of the living and non-living resources of the sea;

(c) Develop improved systems for the expansion of fisheries and formulate coherent policies with a view to increasing the food and protein supplies of the region's population;

(d) Facilitate the integration of population factors into socio-economic development planning in the region;

(e) Assist ECA member States in formulating and implementing relevant population programmes and policies, in evaluating family planning programmes, in establishing or strengthening national population information systems, and in analysing and utilizing demographic data, as well as in training of related personnel;

(f) Coordinate at the regional level issues addressing the relationship between demographic pressures and sustainable consumption patterns and environmental degradation;

(g) Identify strategies to be coordinated regionally for concerted action to deal with major environmental issues in the socio-economic development processes of African countries within a particular time-frame. Such strategies will be aimed at examining the relationship between environmental degradation and the structure of the international economic environment, combating poverty and recommending modalities for access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies;

(h) Assist member States in redressing the rural/urban imbalances through the formulation and implementation of coherent regional policies, programme and projects, in particular by:

(i) Directing more resources to the rural economy for the provision of infrastructure and services commensurate with the role the rural sector is expected to play in the national development process;

(ii) Promoting a systematic exchange of information and experience between member States in the field of human settlement development.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.59 In-depth analyses will be undertaken, the conclusions and recommendations of which will be conveyed through workshops, seminars or advisory services with a view to assisting member States in improving their capabilities in the planning and management of the food and agricultural sectors. Special attention will be paid to the acquisition of experience and an improved capacity for designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating integrated agricultural, forestry and rural development and structural transformation programmes, and to improving social and economic infrastructures on a self-sustaining basis.

30.60 The secretariat will also assist the ECA member States in improving or accelerating the development of adequate infrastructures, especially in the marketing subsector, and in establishing effective interregional cooperation

with efforts aimed at improving agricultural and rural support services. Furthermore, the ECA secretariat will disseminate information on selected issues of agricultural, forestry and rural development and structural transformation, in particular, by organizing seminars and symposia.

30.61 Assistance to member countries and intergovernmental organizations will be provided in strengthening their capabilities for the formulation of coherent policies and activities under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and in improving scientific and technological research through assessment of available resources in exclusive economic zones and stock-taking of various fish species, including freshwater fish, introduction of advanced technologies adapted to fishing, and development of a database with a view to enhancing the technical and scientific knowledge of member States on matters of interest pertaining to living and non-living sea resources.

30.62 The secretariat will also organize training for member States in living and legal aspects of marine resource development and management at different managerial levels, and provide assistance to States in the formulation of investment projects with particular reference to such areas as rehabilitation of existing fishing fleets and fish processing, the promotion of joint investment policies and programmes in the exploitation of resources commonly owned or shared by different countries, and strengthening marketing capabilities of the countries of the region in processing their marine resources. The secretariat will also continue to maintain and develop the information data on different aspects of the activities in that sector of the African economy and disseminate information on selected issues to all interested parties, as and when required.

30.63 Advisory services, workshops, seminars, fellowships and study tours will be organized in order to help member States in developing and/or strengthening existing and ongoing national capabilities and programmes for environmental management, assessment and conservation for sustainable environmentally sound development. In addition, research studies on issues of regional environment will be carried out by the secretariat to make available information to all concerned on a systematic basis. The related findings will be disseminated through publications and activity reports in order to promote environmental awareness at the grassroots level. Follow-up activities based on directions outlined by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular those called for in the African Environment and Development Agenda, will also be undertaken at the regional level.

30.64 Additionally the following activities will be undertaken in promoting the integration of environmental dimension in planning for sustainable development within the spirit of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development:

(a) Coordination within the Commission in assisting member States in the integration of environmental factors in development programmes;

(b) Assistance to member States in addressing the cross-sectoral issues in African Environment and Development Agenda and Agenda 21, particularly:

(i) Environmental monitoring and assessment;

(ii) Institutional development and capacity-building;

(iii) Promotion of environmental information and public awareness;

(c) Inter-agency cooperation and coordination.

30.65 The secretariat will undertake studies, research and analyses of specific issues in the field of population data, such as fertility, mortality, with emphasis on infant and child mortality, urbanization, population distribution and redistribution and migration, family planning and birth-spacing programmes, the integration of population variables in development planning, population policies, the role and status of women, population and environment, and their relation to socio-economic development. Preparations of population estimates and projections will be continued. The research findings and related activities will be disseminated to member States using all possible channels: direct dispatch, seminars, workshops and conferences.

30.66 In the area of human settlements, the thrust of activities will focus on:

(a) Organizing workshops and seminars, preparing studies, reports and technical publications dealing with the formulation and implementation of policies, programmes and projects, which will emphasize the location of infrastructure and services, as well as the efficient distribution of activities and population along with an appropriate administrative and financial framework for accelerated rural reconstruction and decentralization of major cities, and mobilizing resources both locally and internationally for the promotion of an indigenous construction sector, including the production of local building materials;

(b) Assisting member States in the promotion of a network of training centres and institutions specializing in the field of human settlements, in order to train personnel for the implementation of planned activities necessary for the implementation of shelter strategies and programmes of the region;

(c) Assisting member States in the collection and processing of information data in the field of human settlements with a view to establishing a regional database, providing inputs to the global base on human settlements;

(d) Assisting member States in policy research of shelter and development issues and in exchange of information on programming, financing, production and maintenance of shelter.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. DEVELOPMENT, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

(a) Objectives

30.67 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from various General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and ECA resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions 40/213, 41/182, 45/188 and 46/166; Council resolutions 1987/5, 1987/92 and 1988/7; and Commission resolution 619 (XXII).

30.68 Enhancing the efficiency of the public sector in promoting economic development, effectively managing the economic reform and development processes, and the stimulation and development of entrepreneurship are some of the paramount challenges facing African Governments in the 1990s.

30.69 Despite efforts by Governments in several African countries to improve the performance of their public services in the management of development, the results achieved, as evidenced from the economic crises of the 1980s have been marginal. Numerous problems persist, such as the tardiness of the African civil service to transform itself from a colonial, rule-bound service to that of a development-oriented one, the inadequate specialized skills, knowledge, capability and motivation that prevent the African public service to respond effectively to development challenges. Regrettably, training institutions and programmes and the ineffective management of limited resources or the development of public administrators have not been geared to the management of economic and social development and have, therefore, impaired the performance of the public services.

30.70 The contribution of the public enterprise sector to the process of economic development has failed to match expectations. State-owned enterprises that have been expected to provide financial surplus to the government budget have often required massive subsidization, thus imposing a fiscal burden on the national economy. There has been minimal accomplishment of the non-commercial objectives or goals set for African public enterprises.

30.71 There has been inadequate mobilization of domestic financial resources to finance both current and capital expenditures. This fiscal situation has given rise, inter alia, to the heavy public debt and its attendant servicing burden. The contributory factors, among other issues, have been the narrow base of the African taxation systems and the related inflexibility in responding to changes in social, economic and development objectives and programmes. With regard to expenditure programming, there has been no proper determination of programme priorities in accordance with development objectives for the allocation of financial resources, resulting therefore in the growth of expenditures for those programmes and projects which do not contribute to growth and development.

30.72 After more than a decade of experience with liberalization and adjustment, it is becoming increasingly clear that a fundamental challenge of the 1990s and beyond is to return African economies to a more consistent trajectory of growth. This means, in practical terms, that government in the region must take steps to restore and build business confidence, establish sound information systems on micro-economic behaviour and markets, and provide

an appropriate regime of incentives to stimulate and encourage entrepreneurial ventures with a potential for significant value-added and/or export to niche markets.

30.73 In the African context, the informal sector remains a fact of entrepreneurial life. Often engaged in low value-added activities, many ventures in this sector exhibit considerable potential to "graduate" into better-established and endowed businesses. The informal sector has been ignored for too long. Any realistic distribution of incentives must carefully target the most promising informal sector ventures for assistance.

30.74 Entrepreneurship in Africa remains the main vehicle of economic diversification, future growth, higher living standards and increasing levels of self-reliance. Specific measures to stimulate, develop and promote African entrepreneurship must rest on a firm foundation of sound economic management, efficient public services, positive attitudes towards business and reliable infrastructure.

30.75 The objectives of the subprogramme are to assist member States in:

(a) Strengthening public administration institutions, systems, practices and processes for the improved management of economic development;

(b) Identifying institutional and policy constraints limiting the development of entrepreneurial capacity and assisting them in creating the necessary environment for providing incentives for effective mobilization of private economic agents;

(c) Improving the performance of public enterprises and public financial management for efficient mobilization, allocation and control of financial resources;

(d) Adopting measures to redress the shortage of skilled manpower for the management of the public services;

(e) Strengthening national and subregional management development institutions in the designing and delivery of management development and support programmes.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.76 Advisory services will be provided for improving the performance of the public service in the development process and for improving public financial management. Research studies will be undertaken on ways and means of improving the performance of public enterprises and on the restructuring of taxation systems for adequate mobilization of domestic resources and effective measures for controlling public enterprises. Training courses, seminars and workshops will be organized in collaboration with interested parties from member States for their public administrators. Assistance will be provided for the strengthening of capabilities of national and subregional training and research institutions and associations dealing with improvement in public administration and management, budgetary and taxation systems, policies and administration.

30.77 Technical assistance will be provided to member States to identify institutional and policy constraints limiting entrepreneurial development. Research and technical publications will examine emerging issues in micro-economic behaviour, entrepreneurial promotion and management development. This effort will be reinforced by technical meetings and the dissemination of timing materials to support entrepreneurial promotion. The secretariat will also liaise closely with other donor institutions with initiatives on entrepreneurial development in the region.

SUBPROGRAMME 5. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

(a) Objectives

30.78 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and ECA resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions S-13/2, 40/33 to 40/35, 40/100, 41/142, 41/149, 42/54, 43/94, 43/98, 43/99, 44/57, 44/67, 44/70, 44/72, 45/86, 45/191, 46/87, 46/90, 46/96 and 46/143; Council resolutions 1987/48, 1987/51, 1988/11, 1988/66, 1989/46, 1989/52, 1989/59, 1989/62, 1989/63, 1989/66, 1989/68, 1989/69, 1989/72 and 1989/120; and Commission resolutions 601 (XXII), 42 (XXIII), 631 (XXIII), 633 (XXIII), 644 (XXIII), 691 (XXV), 713 (XXVII) and 740 (XXVII).

30.79 The devastating economic crisis of the 1980s has left Africa with discernible and widespread deterioration in social and human conditions. According to statistical reports, Africa on the average exhibits the lowest human development index in the world. There is now African and global consensus that focus on human development must be at the centre of the development process. The development of people must be both the ultimate goal and the key instrument of reaching that goal. Thus, sustained development and transformation in the African region requires the effective implementation of human-centred development strategies and programmes, and an integrated and effective interplay between economic factors and social and human development variables. Democratization, poverty alleviation and the inseparable links between a viable environment and socio-economic development policies are also integral to human development and long-term growth and development.

30.80 A significant improvement in the human and social conditions in Africa in the 1990s would require the articulation and rigorous implementation of national human-centred development policies and programmes in each African country. Elements of such national policies and programmes are expounded in important decisions adopted by African leaders, and the international community in recent years, such as the OAU Declaration on the Employment Crisis in Africa, the resolutions of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. In addition the Khartoum Declaration on the Human Dimension of Africa's Economic Recovery and Development (1988) and the African Charter for Social Action adopted by ECA/OAU Ministers responsible for Social Affairs (Arusha, October 1989), which contains most of the elements propounded by the human-centred development approach, such as education and literacy, health, employment, participatory development and so on.

30.81 Accelerating the democratization process and regular participation in development are also crucial elements and objectives of human-centred development. The African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation defines the rights and obligations of people and their organizations in the development process in Africa.

30.82 Implementation of the decisions in the above documents has barely begun and therefore needs to be pursued with determination and vigour by all concerned, especially authorities responsible for economic and social planning. These point to the need for policy analysis, research, information exchange and training on issues and problems of social and human development, namely: the role of the family; youth and development; rising crime, including drug abuse and illicit trafficking; worsening conditions of vulnerable groups; rising rates of rural-urban migration; high levels of illiteracy; unemployment and underemployment; planning, development and utilization of human resources; inadequate and imbalanced educational and training systems; the brain-drain; and the informal sector.

30.83 The role of Africa's people's and non-governmental organizations in all of these should be underscored. This role must be recognized and enhanced as people's organizations and non-governmental organizations can educate Governments on the development needs of the people and how they can best be met, and, likewise, galvanize and mobilize the energies of the people in support of the development process. People's organizations and non-governmental organizations, should as such be regarded as partners working with Governments to provide leadership and mobilize support for development and hence should be provided with all assistance for improving their capacity to lead and enhance the effective participation of people in development.

30.84 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To promote the effective development of human resources necessary for accelerated economic and social development in all sectors of the national economy and to strengthen capabilities for human resource planning, development and utilization as a basis for optimizing the contribution of human resources to development;

(b) To promote popular participation in development and foster good governance;

(c) To strengthen the capacities in people's organizations and non-governmental organizations and assist the informal sector to become more productive;

(d) To support the efforts of member States in:

(i) The design, implementation and evaluation of appropriate policies, programmes, strategies and services for the effective integration and participation of youth in social and economic life and for the effective prevention of crime and juvenile delinquency;

(ii) Strengthen the role of the family in socio-economic development;

(iii) The identification, analysis and research of social development issues and problems as a basis for social planning within the context of overall development planning, and for the formulation of appropriate social policies and strategies as well as an integrated approach to social progress through equity, social justice and popular participation, with a focus on the rural population.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.85 The ECA secretariat will assist member States in planning, designing, managing, monitoring and evaluating human resource development and utilization by conducting and organizing, on the basis of related studies, training workshops, seminars and conferences at national, subregional and regional levels for senior government officials and personnel from both the private and parastatal sectors, providing advisory services to member States on manpower and employment planning, assisting them in strengthening their institutional machinery for human resource development and utilization, and evaluating education and training programmes and enhancing the contribution of the informal sector to development. Furthermore, the secretariat will document and disseminate ideas, knowledge, information, research findings and innovations in the areas of human resource development, planning and utilization; popular participation in development; strengthening the role of people's organizations and non-governmental organizations; and enhancing the contribution of the informal sector to development.

30.86 A number of activities will be undertaken, including action-oriented research, as a basis for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of effective and relevant social policies, programmes, strategies and services; training courses, workshops, seminars, expert meetings, study tours for the exchange of ideas and experience and for the formulation of common strategies; substantial support in the establishment and strengthening of appropriate national and regional organizations, associations, institutions, coordinating bodies and structures; and technical advisory services to assist in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of relevant social policies, programmes and services.

30.87 The secretariat will also disseminate information on specific issues of social development of the region through publication of its reports and studies, as well as of other relevant documentation, and provide other information services in the field of social development to the ECA members as and when required. The secretariat will cooperate with regional institutions in the field of social development, such as the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development and the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, on subjects of mutual concern.

SUBPROGRAMME 6. STATISTICAL AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

30.88 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions S-13/2 and 44/169, Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/3 and Commission resolutions 679 (XXV), 683 (XXV) and 716 (XXVI).

30.89 The challenges and policy options and their implications in the overall economic perspective of the region need to be analysed in the light of current and projected national, subregional, regional and international developments. The achievement of such an analysis requires the development and maintenance of specialized macro- and micro-economic statistical and informational databases. The scope of these databases should encompass all fields and issues relevant to macro- and micro-economic analysis, including those of an interdisciplinary nature. The data should particularly incorporate important issues such as subregional and international trade, financial relations, environment and other relevant statistics to facilitate interdisciplinary research and development of informational exchanges. For the effective use of a database, an informational networking arrangement should be in place linking members through electronic data exchanges.

30.90 However, the scope, quality and analysis of statistics in Africa hardly meet the elementary requirements of planning and decision-making. Those deficiencies may translate into enormous costs if factors behind socio-economic and environmental crises remain unknown and thus unattended. Despite an improvement in demographic data collection, Africa still lags behind in the availability of detailed and timely data regarding fertility, mortality and migration, especially with respect to the determinants and effects of trends in those fields, while data pertaining to environmental problems are almost non-existent. Many African countries do not as yet have basic statistics on agriculture, trade, industry, energy, transport, communications or price statistics.

30.91 Furthermore, a meaningful socio-economic research and analysis for policy formulation and strategic planning is almost impossible without a sound information base. The importance of systematic information processing and packaging for stimulating socio-economic research, review and analysis for strategic planning has been recognized and actions should now be taken to: (a) strengthen information resources and capabilities of African countries, subregional and regional institutions; (b) provide the necessary information support; and (c) assist in the development of viable information systems and networks.

30.92 The session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers adopted the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s. A strategy for the implementation of the Plan of Action was formulated and subsequently endorsed by the seventh session of the Joint Conference and adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers in April 1992. The primary objective of the plan is to strengthen the capacities of institutions at national, subregional and regional levels for the generation of development information and for data gathering, processing, analysis and dissemination. Africa's development challenges demand that greater attention be assigned to developing sound databases, research and studies on which policies can be formulated and development strategies adopted.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.93 In order to improve the situation in the field of statistics in the region, as detailed in the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s and in the Strategy for its implementation, the ECA secretariat will undertake the following activities and will provide:

(a) Assistance to member States for the maintenance and strengthening of their institutional framework and for the provision of data for integrated planning. Areas covered will include demographic, social and economic data, particularly on households and household members, as well as environment statistics;

(b) Advisory services to countries on the formulation of statistical development plans, including data-production and analysis schedules, training programmes and detailed data-processing requirements, on the establishment of user/producer committees for optimizing the use and relevance of statistical services, and on the development and maintenance of national statistical data bases;

(c) Advisory services in the fields of population censuses, civil registration, household surveys, environment statistics, national accounts, trade statistics and industrial statistics, which will concentrate on building up self-reliance and will therefore emphasize on-the-job training;

(d) Development and expansion of the existing regional statistical database, with a view to disseminating to users comprehensive and up-to-date statistical information, including well-documented data from other international data banks and from national sources;

(e) Statistical computing materials for on-the-job training and formal training of statisticians at statistical training centres;

(f) Methodological studies will be carried out in specific areas of economic, social, demographic and environment statistics. Those studies will have two main objectives, namely, to identify and analyse the shortcomings of the basic statistics at the national level, and to serve as technical guidelines for member States to assist them in their efforts to improve the quality and timeliness of data being collected;

(g) A series of seminars and training workshops to examine conceptual and organizational requirements for improving national, subregional and regional programmes on socio-economic and environment statistics, to promote the exchange of experiences between the countries of the region in the field of statistics and to develop further the professional competence of the participants. Those workshops and seminars will focus on statistical computing, population census, with particular reference to special population groups, civil registration systems and vital statistics collection, household surveys, environment statistics, international trade statistics, business surveys, basic economic statistics and national accounts. A series of technical documents will be prepared on the above topics and disseminated among member States. The secretariat will also develop and maintain development information databases to be exchanged with member States as well as with other development information users, by electronic as well as traditional means.

30.94 The secretariat will provide advisory services on development of information management systems and technology, and on training of staff of national, subregional and regional institutions in computerized information management techniques, harmonization of standards and methodologies.

SUBPROGRAMME 7. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

30.95 The legislative authority of the subprogramme derives from General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and ECA resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are General Assembly resolutions S-13/2, 40/171, 40/208, 42/186, 43/193, 44/225 and 45/209; Council resolutions 1987/10, 1989/6, 1989/8 and 1989/12; and Commission resolutions 572 (XXI) and 602 (XXII).

30.96 The importance of natural resources, including non-living resources of the sea, to the attainment of sustainable development is being duly recognized in Africa. The exploitation and processing of Africa's natural resources is a linchpin for the promotion of regional cooperation and integration. The emergence of new trading blocs and realignment of old ones could alter relationships and the increase in the level of substitutes and synthetic products available could cause reduction in the level of demand for Africa's natural resources. It is therefore prudent for the continent to exploit these resources for its own needs, such as energy supply for industrial production and use of irrigation for food and agricultural production, and to develop mechanisms for facilitating subregional trading in these resources.

30.97 The African mineral sector has experienced a number of adverse years during the 1980s. The sector, which depends heavily on export demands, has been seriously affected by the decline in international demand for mineral commodities produced in the region. At the same time, access to finance continues to be a major obstacle in view of the fact that mineral exploration is a high-risk activity and construction of major mines and processing facilities requires large sums of investment in mineral exploration and development of the sector.

30.98 As regards water resources, much more remains to be done to ensure its efficient development and use. The activities being implemented under the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa have been severely affected by the economic crisis and the natural disasters during the 1980s. Progress with the use of irrigation for food and agriculture has been disappointing, with food production still lagging behind the rate of population growth and with three quarters of the rural population still having no access to safe drinking-water or sanitation facilities.

30.99 While there is an increasing awareness of the potentials of cartography and remote sensing as tools for natural resource planning, development and management, detection of hazards and environmental monitoring, including combating drought and desertification, the overall capabilities of most countries in that field remain inadequate for their needs in natural resources development, planning and monitoring. The present situation is characterized by:

(a) Lack of national policies that can provide a framework for the promotion of these technologies;

(b) Lack of awareness and commitment by the decision makers with regard to the potential benefits of these technologies;

(c) Weak scientific and technological infrastructure in most African countries;

(d) Difficulty in the data acquisition and data management;

(e) Lack of effective coordination of remote-sensing programmes and activities in the region;

(f) The status of hydrographic mapping in most of the countries is very poor. Large areas of continental shelves, exclusive economic zones and inland lakes and rivers remain inadequately or are not at all surveyed and many nautical charts are obsolete or inadequate. There is lack of data on the available hydrographic resources and only few maritime countries have the capability to conduct their own surveying and charting.

30.100 The situation in Africa is characterized by:

(a) Low levels of total energy availability and use for production sectors of the economy, coupled with high levels of wastage, that is, low efficiency in the production, conversion, transport, distribution and end-use of all forms of energy;

(b) An excessively high share of traditional biomass fuels in total energy consumption, coupled with very high levels of wastage in the use of all biomass fuels;

(c) Rapid depletion of standing biomass stocks in each of the major ecological zones and, consequently, rapidly growing scarcity, as well as growing deficiency, of traditional biomass fuels. That is increasing the burden women and children bear in gathering and using household fuels for family needs and the crisis over reduction of green areas of the Earth with repercussions of climate changes;

(d) A high share of liquid petroleum fuels, used mainly in road and rail transport, in total commercial energy supplies, coupled with high levels of wastage in the end-use of such transport fuels;

(e) A high burden resulting from the use of foreign exchange resources in the importation of petroleum and its derivatives imposed on the economies of most African countries;

(f) Escalation in the foreign exchange costs of technologies, both hardware as well as software, that are needed to expand rapidly the indigenous production of energy supplies and to improve energy end-use efficiency;

(g) Lack of adequate policy and planning research capacity indispensable for the formulation of coherent country-specific and resource-specific energy policies, plans and phased strategies essential for extracting each country from the complex energy crises it faces.

30.101 The objectives of the subprogramme are to assist countries of the region as follows:

(a) In the field of natural resources:

(i) Improving national capabilities for exploration and utilization of surface and groundwater resources;

(ii) Promoting regional and subregional cooperation in the use of shared water resources;

(iii) Improving their knowledge of mineral resources endowment, increasing and strengthening their institutional, negotiating and manpower capacities and capabilities and strengthening subregional cooperative mechanisms for mineral development and utilization and trade of mineral commodities and mineral-based products;

(iv) To develop and strengthen institutional, technological and human resource capabilities for the application of cartography and remote-sensing techniques in data collection and use for the exploitation of natural resources and environmental management;

(v) To enhance policies and design legislative guidelines for the use of cartography and remote sensing in social and economic development planning;

(b) In the field of energy:

(i) Developing their national capabilities for exploration, exploitation, evaluation and development of energy resources and in promoting multinational cooperation activities;

(ii) Integrating energy policies into general socio-economic growth and development policies;

(iii) Enhancing fuel substitution and environmental control techniques, energy efficiency and, in particular end-use efficiency, in order to achieve sustainable energy development as stipulated by Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.102 Assistance will be provided to member States in building up their technical knowledge of mineral resources through the preparation of technical studies on development, utilization and trade of selected minerals, such as base commodities, ferrous and non-ferrous and fertilizer minerals and mineral-based products, and in compiling and disseminating information on mineral resource inventories. Training will be provided through workshops, seminars and study tours on all aspects relating to mineral exploration, exploitation and processing. Advisory services technical support will be extended to member States on technical, managerial, policy and economic aspects of mineral development and utilization, and to intergovernmental institutions and subregional economic groupings on the conception and implementation of their work and capital development programmes.

30.103 In the field of water resources, research and analysis will be undertaken on policy issues, technical assistance and advisory services will be provided and training courses, workshops, seminars and study tours will be organized and promoted in the fields of planning, management and institutional

capability development assessment of water resources and river and lake-basin development.

30.104 In the field of cartography, the secretariat will continue to offer technical advisory services to member States so as to make their national institutions more responsive to their national cartographic and remote-sensing needs for planning and development. Those services will focus on the formulation and execution of cooperative projects, such as the establishment of common geodetic standards and mapping specifications, building up of a geographic information database for Africa, through a continuous and systematic collection of maps and charts for the Map Documentation and Reference Centre, as an all-Africa map library; assistance in the development of the capacity to acquire a geographic information system for the rational exploitation and management of natural resources; and the establishment of a cartographic and remote-sensing information data bank. The organization of conferences, seminars, workshops and expert group meetings will continue to be the basis for the formulation of policies and guidelines as well as for the practical training of African professionals and technicians.

30.105 The secretariat will provide assistance to the Commission's members and the African regional organizations in undertaking a systematic and comprehensive inventory of conventional and renewable sources of energy and analysing the conditions for their exploitation, distribution and use in order to establish the optimum conditions for their development. Assistance will also be provided in formulating integrated energy policies and in integrating them into overall socio-economic development and economic growth policies, in maximizing efficiency in the production, conversion, distribution and end-use of all forms of energy, and in the development of programmes for rapid replenishment of biomass fuels and for conservation measures for all sources of energy.

30.106 Efforts will continue in the collection, processing and dissemination of information and data on energy to assist member States in the formulation of the energy plans and assessment of the overall situation in the continent, in particular, by means of workshops and seminars. Furthermore, training of African researchers, engineers and technicians in the field of conventional and new and renewable sources of energy will continue through seminars, workshops and study tours. In the area of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, programmes will be formulated that will aim at developing the technical capabilities of African countries in the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and the development of nuclear science and technology.

SUBPROGRAMME 8. INFRASTRUCTURAL AND STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION

(a) Objectives

30.107 The legislative authority of the subprogramme derives from General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and ECA resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions 43/179, 43/184, 43/192, 44/14, 44/169, 44/236, 44/237 and 46/165, and decisions 46/456 and 46/458; Council resolutions 1987/20, 1987/79, 1988/67, 1989/115, 1991/81 and 1991/83; and Commission resolutions 531 (XX), 563 (XXII), 564 (XXII), 588 (XXII), 604 (XXII), 610 (XXII), 629 (XXIII), 639 (XXIII), 656 (XXIV), 662 (XXIV), 689 (XXV), 710 (XXVI) and 739 (XXVII).

30.108 Infrastructure for self-reliant and sustainable development embraces a wide range of essential institutions, services and physical structures. For the structural transformation of the African economies to take place, however, an efficient and integrated transport and communications system should be established and should as much as possible be linked up with the industrial sector, the whole supported by the development of appropriate technology. These are prerequisites for accelerated and self-sustained growth and development. Indeed, it is well known that transport and communications play a major support role with respect to the industrial sector as they both contribute to enhancing its productivity through, inter alia, the efficient movement of inputs to finished or semi-finished products from industries. Also, the development of all modern transport modes and communications subsectors depend greatly on the manufacturing sector. This support from the manufacturing sector can only be possible if research and development activities are promoted with a view to developing appropriate technologies to produce better equipment for an efficient transport and communications system, which in turn will increase the efficiency of the manufacturing sector.

30.109 Special attention will have to be given to the influence of transport and communications for the nature and dynamics of domestic markets and the need in this regard to the effective integration of national and multinational economies. Over the next few years Governments must give priority to the establishment of the necessary missing links whose impact in the integration process of African economies is badly felt, to maintenance and rehabilitation of roads, provision of efficient transportation networks, efficient energy supply, telecommunications and other essential infrastructural services in support of transformation. Most of the African countries are facing fundamental problems of how to manage efficiently and sustain the existing transport and communications infrastructures and expand them beyond the urban centres to the rural communities. In spite of the attempts made during the 1984-1989 period to develop the multimodal aspects of transport, mostly containerization, no significant success was achieved. Efforts were also not effective with regard to institution-building in general, owing largely to the lack of support by member States to sustain intergovernmental organizations already established. Unsatisfactory results were also apparent in the field of manpower development, owing mainly to the absence or inadequacy of proper human resource management systems. The lack of integrated planning has also led to insufficient investments in transport and communications, the ineffective use of available equipment and the underutilization of existing networks.

30.110 A policy framework within which the industrial sector has to develop is an important determinant for structural transformation. Actually, such shortcomings as the scarcity of raw materials and spare parts, the inadequacy of infrastructures, the inadequacy of technological, skilled labour and managerial capabilities, the design of inadequate plant scales and the promotion of inappropriate capital-intensive industries are all manifestations of the distorted policy framework within which the African industrial sector has operated in the past. Inadequate industrial policies and strategies, coupled with adverse domestic and external economic conditions such as a continuing drought, lack of foreign exchange and lack of inter and intrasectoral linkages, continue to hamper the development of essential industries, especially capital goods, intermediate goods and food industries, supportive of the agricultural sector, which was given high priority in the

United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. For example, the achievement of food self-sufficiency in Africa, in the long run, requires an increase in the utilization of fertilizers and pesticides. However, with the continuation of policies that fail to direct or reorient the industrialization process, Africa will continue to depend on imported inputs for agriculture, transport and communications equipments for road construction and maintenance, railways, air, inland water and multi-modal transport.

30.111 In addition, African industrial policies and planning have not been conducive to innovations nor have they facilitated a systematic mobilization of all inputs. They have not put sufficient emphasis on such aspects as research and development and training of required skills, especially entrepreneurial skills for small-scale industries. The resulting lack of technology mastery explains, to a large extent, the great difficulties African countries are experiencing in selecting, acquiring, adapting, assimilating and developing technologies, the high rate of replacement of installed equipments by new ones and of capacity underutilization in many cases. Generally, research centres operate in isolation from existing industries, which are also not substantively related to technical and engineering training institutions.

30.112 In spite of the often stated recognition of the role of science and technology in development, it is not fully reflected in national development plans. The majority of African countries still have no explicit policies for science and technology and the sporadic and often unharmonized initiatives in that area are inadequate to bring about concerted action in the subregions. The problems facing the region include the weak scientific infrastructure in many countries, the weak linkages between the productive sector and the scientific and technological institutions and the inadequacy of strategies to acquire technologies through technology transfer for the critical sectors. Furthermore, insufficient practical orientation of some scientific courses and research and their irrelevance to the needs of the local environment create a situation in which researchers cannot effectively respond to the technical challenges of development and in an insufficient training of indigenous technical personnel. This situation has also led to the brain drain and the subsequent worsening of the human resource situation.

30.113 The objectives of the subprogramme are as follows:

(a) In the field of industrial development:

(i) To assist ECA members and intergovernmental organizations in Africa in the development and promotion of capabilities for the formulation of industrial policies, plans and strategies geared towards industrial productivity and rationalization of existing industrial structure;

(ii) To promote industrial programmes and projects aimed at creating national or multinational resource-based and core-engineering industries;

(iii) To promote technological and entrepreneurial capabilities, especially for small-scale industries;

(iv) To assist in building and strengthening subregional and regional institutions for industrial development in the fields of technology, standardization, production and management;

(v) To assist member countries and subregional organizations in the mobilization of adequate resources for the implementation of their programmes for the Second United Nations Industrial Development Decade in Africa (1991-2000);

(b) In the field of transport and communications:

(i) To assist member States in building the necessary missing links and in maintaining, rehabilitating and upgrading their transport and communications infrastructures;

(ii) To collect, treat and analyse pertinent information and disseminate it to different users;

(iii) To assist in the training of appropriate human resources to be used in transport and communications sectors;

(iv) To contribute to efforts towards manufacturing, on a cooperative basis, of at least part of the useful and needed transport and communications equipment;

(v) To assist in strengthening and building national, subregional and regional institutions and mechanisms for transport and communications in the field of management, rehabilitation, planning and evaluation;

(vi) To assist member countries in the formulation of national, subregional and regional policies and a regulations framework to enhance the development of the telecommunications infrastructure and services vital to the realization of economic and physical integration of Africa;

(vii) To assist member countries in the mobilization of funds for the implementation of their programme and projects for the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (1991-2000);

(c) In the field of science and technology:

(i) To promote an understanding of the role of science and technology in economic and social development, as well as of the nature and levels of possible State intervention in that sector in order to ensure the attainment of development strategies;

(ii) To provide assistance to ECA member States and their intergovernmental organizations in the development, through appropriate education and training programmes, of the required science and technology personnel for technology assessment, transfer, development and application;

(iii) Strengthening the indigenous construction sector, including the production and utilization of locally produced building materials within a decentralized administration and financial framework conducive for attracting venture capital, and the participation of the private sector and the local population in the provision of infrastructure and services.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.114 The ECA secretariat will undertake research studies and provide advisory services to member States, with a view to developing and promoting capabilities for formulation of industrial policies and strategies geared towards restructuring and rehabilitating the industrial sector. It will organize country and subregional workshops and seminars for government officials and individual entrepreneurs with a view to promoting small-scale industries and ensuring that those industries are integrated into the development process. Furthermore, the ECA secretariat will prepare and conduct training programmes in order to improve and strengthen capabilities of African countries in industrial planning, establishment and management of industries and the rehabilitation of existing industries within the framework of subregional economic policies. Such activities will be organized in collaboration with the secretariats of UNIDO, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing, the African Regional Centre for Technology and the African Regional Organization for Standardization.

30.115 Major activities in the field of agro- and forest-based industries will include preparation of technical studies and provision of technical advisory services to Governments on the rehabilitation and upgrading of some of the identified agro- and forest-based industries; identification, preparation, appraisal and promotion of projects aimed at expanding food preservation and processing industries, organization of training courses, seminars and study tours on managing agro- and forest-based industries with special emphasis on the aspects of preservation, processing and storage of food. Consultations among the ECA partners will also be organized.

30.116 The ECA secretariat will follow up on the studies and activities already undertaken, namely, facilitation of international traffic, manpower development and promotion of an African industry in transport and communications. It will promote the involvement of African countries in concrete projects, activities and operational mechanisms related to facilitation of traffic, maintenance and development of transport and communications infrastructures with special emphasis on inter-State links and transit corridors, installation of human resource management systems in all transport and communications institutions, and development of joint operations of transport and communications services where practicable, in order to promote regional cooperation in that field. The secretariat will undertake studies and research of specific issues in the field of transport and communications and their trends at the regional, subregional and national levels and disseminate the related findings within the region. In the area of institutional infrastructure emphasis will be placed both on the establishment of new institutions and the strengthening and rationalization of existing ones. ECA, in cooperation with African organizations and international

agencies, will encourage the preparation and promote the implementation of an African telecommunications policy framework.

30.117 The secretariat will also provide assistance to African countries in establishing or strengthening national, subregional and regional centres for technology, including an advance technology alert system. Studies on principles of technological policy-making and planning for development, technological assessment in the process of acquisition and transfer of technology will be carried out and technical assistance to African countries and relevant regional and subregional institutions, such as the African Regional Centre for Technology, the African Regional Organization for Standardization, and others, in development and implementation of the projects of their specific concern will be provided. The secretariat will also disseminate information on science and technology in specific fields of science to African countries, in particular through seminars, workshops, study tours and other relevant mechanisms.

SUBPROGRAMME 9. WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

30.118 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from various General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and ECA resolutions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions 42/61, 42/65, 44/71, 44/75, 44/77, 44/78, 44/171 and 46/167; Council resolutions 1987/86, 1988/19, 1988/22, 1988/29, 1989/29, 1989/33, 1989/37 and 1989/43; and Commission resolutions 597 (XXII), 666 (XXIV) and 684 (XXV).

30.119 The conceptual framework for analysis, policy formulation and programme planning influences the chances of success by defining the parameters of the women's issues. So far, work on women in development has been handicapped by inadequate conceptual approaches. For example, there has been an overemphasis on the micro-level activities of women, particularly income-generating activities. There is need for women to make a breakthrough in economic activities, especially in periods of economic adjustment and crisis. Secondly, present approaches have not sufficiently reflected on gender. Thus, new conceptual approaches are required that will analyse women's issues from a gender perspective and ensure that women's concerns are incorporated into national development plans. Accordingly women's concerns should be integrated, in as much as possible, in all programme activities of ECA.

30.120 While legal equality in the labour market is a prerequisite for promoting employment for women, it is not sufficient. Often women do not possess the required qualifications and training for jobs available. Those who are in the productive sectors, such as agriculture, experience low productivity levels as they have inadequate access to training, credit or technologies. Those inadequacies prevent the effective participation of women in the decision-making process, in particular in policy formulation and the design of development plans.

30.121 There is also a need to strengthen the existing information networks with member States through the establishment of a database on women. This will provide a computerized systematic information network for dissemination

of information. The involvement of media and other information channellers to create a positive outlook on women's issues in Africa will be established.

30.122 In the framework of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development for 1990-1995 and the Arusha Strategies for the Advancement of Women in Africa beyond the United Nations Decade for Women, as well as the Abuja Declaration, the overall objective of the subprogramme is to assist the ECA member States towards increased improvement and more effective participation of women in the socio-economic development of the region. Specifically, the subprogramme will aim at promoting employment, productive resources and income for women, enhanced participation of women in decision-making, and the strengthening of the database and information networks for the formulation of policies and programmes for women.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

30.123 The secretariat will undertake overall and sectoral analyses of emerging socio-economic trends and their impact on African women, in particular, by utilizing a data-bank information network. Promotion of employment opportunities of women in agro-industries will be continued through the introduction of experimental projects in selected countries in the agriculture sector and the improvement of the position of women for the control of production and distribution services will be sought through training and access to credit. Through management training courses and seminars, efforts will be made to assist women to attain decision-making levels in business and in the formulation of agricultural and industrial policies.

30.124 The Abuja Declaration on Participatory Development: The Role of Women in the 1990s emphasized the need to stimulate the entrepreneurial spirit of African women with a view to increasing their contribution to development. Within the context of the Abuja Declaration, efforts will be made to help bring about economic empowerment of the African woman through the promotion of entrepreneurship development and the establishment of a federation of African women entrepreneurs, as well as working closely with African women non-governmental organizations. Collaboration and coordination of activities on women entrepreneurs will be sought with regional and subregional structures.